October 2026

Rotary NEWS PLUS



Rotary



A participating club is given a memento by RID 3234 PDG N S Saravanan as PDG C R Raju and former Navy officer Suresh Babu (right) look on.

An ex-Navy Commando inspires Rotarians

Team Rotary News

Retired Navy officer and former Marine Commando Captain Suresh Babu gave an inspiring talk on 'Frontline to shoreline' at a joint speaker meet hosted by RC Meenambakkam and 14 other clubs of RID 3234 in Chennai recently. While more than 90 Rotarians attended the speaker meet, the event was also livestreamed on a podcast channel owned by a participating club.

Recalling his training during his NDA cadet days, Captain Babu linked it to "how systematic training and strategising can apply to Rotary leadership as only the goal is changed." For the Indian Navy, the goal is to protect the nation, whereas RI is building lasting friendships for better understanding and peace while the serving the global communities. Following a request from a club president on how to align community service with the defence forces on the Chennai coastline, Babu gave an AV presentation on the numerous projects that armed forces are involved along the coast.

The Indian Navy, along with the Coast Guard, is doing a regular clean-up of extensive oil slicks using bio-products like bacteria; prevention of accidents caused to marine creatures by human usage of the ocean; protecting sea creatures from various hazards arising out of irresponsible disposal of non-recyclable plastic waste; and also the regular beach clean-up activity in the coastal areas of India.

During the Q&A session, the Navy veteran threw light on some of the daring operations of the Marine Commandos in Kashmir, Operation Pawan, peacekeeping mission in Sri Lanka, Operations Jupiter, Cactus etc.

In his speech, PDG N S Saravanan urged Rotarians to follow the suggestions of Captain Babu "so that the goals set by your club president can be achieved systematically which will make the whole experience of being a leader an enjoyable and fulfilling one."

Giving an overview of the special event, B Dakshayani, club trainer, RC Meenambakkam, said, "in the present times, where more than 50 per cent of clubs have fewer than 25 members in RID 3234, it has becoming harder to bring in expert speakers, as attendance at weekly meetings is less than 50 per cent in such clubs." To create interest in club meetings, "we have conceptualised this latest meet where we can listen to a real life hero who can inspire us with a motivational speech," she added. ■

On the cover: Students with textbooks distributed by RC Kushinagar at a government primary school.





Club members sit on the new wooden benches near the entrance to a Buddhist temple, Kushinagar.

Members of RC Kushinagar and Butwal Dowtown at the signing of sister club and fellowship agreement between the two sides.

Study material for school students

Team Rotary News

Educational material including stationery and books were distributed to students from the government primary and upper primary schools by members of RC Kushinagar, RID 3120.

On the first day of their campaign, students from the Junior High School, Mundera Ratan Patti, and Primary School, Premwalia, received the study material. "The distribution of school essentials is aimed to support less privileged students by providing them with learning resources and kindling interest towards education," said Wahid Ali, co-patron of the club. Club president Ajay Kumar Singh, secretary Durgesh Chaturvedi and other members took part in the school project.

Seating facilities (long wooden benches) were installed at the entrance to the Buddha Mahaparinirvana Temple, Kushinagar, to provide comfort and relaxation to the pilgrims and tourists visiting this world-renowned Buddhist centre. The wooden bench-cum-chairs will enable pilgrims and others to take a short break from their tedious journey and sit here for a brief relaxation.

Kushinagar Municipality chairman's representative Rakesh Jaiswal, Ali and club president Ajay Singh were present at the inauguration of the seat benches.

A joint meeting with RC Butwal-Downtown, RID 3292, Nepal, was held to foster friendship and co-operation between the two clubs. "We discussed the possibilities of a collaborative project and joint social service reaching out to communities in both India and Nepal," said Wahid Ali. Apart from sharing notes, sister club arrangement was entered into by the clubs to promote cross-border exchange of project ideas and joint service initiatives for the betterment of communities.

The Nepal delegation was led by their club president Dharma Dutta Gyawali and IPP Baburam Banjade, while Ali, Ajay Singh and senior vice-president Vijay Dwivedi represented RC Kushinagar during the fellowship talks. ■



Primary school students with textbooks given by RC Kushinagar.

Rotary bags for conservancy staff

Team Rotary News



RID 3204 DG Mohandas Menon distributes Rotary backpacks to conservancy workers in Trikaripur, Kerala. Also seen are panchayat president Sajida Safarulla (4th from R) and RC Trikarpur members.

As part of RID 3204's *My City Clean City* drive, 46 members of Haritha Karma Sena, the all-women's waste disposal team under the Kudumbashree Mission of the state government, were presented with backpack bags with Rotary logo by RC Trikarpur.

The Haritha Sena team was honoured for cleaning every nook and corner of Trikaripur panchayat with dedication. This small village is in Kasaragod district of Kerala. DG Mohandas Menon presented the Rotary bags to the conservancy workers at an event attended by panchayat president Sajida Safarulla and local officials.

Club president TV Madhusoodanan, project coordinator C Shoukath and RID 3204 office-bearers, along with Rotarians and community members, were present at the event. ■

RC Puttur honours teachers



Awardees and Rotarians at the Teachers' Day event.

Teachers' Day was celebrated with gratitude by RC Puttur, RID 3181, in the presence of DGN Suryanarayan Kukkady who delivered an inspiring speech.

As many as 28 teachers were honoured in recognition of their contributions to education and society. In addition, 10 Rotarian teachers and 17 Anns were also felicitated by the club for their 'selfless service' to the Rotary movement.

A milk analyser unit worth `42,000 was donated to Milk Society of Kodimbady, Puttur, and this initiative would benefit more than 75 stakeholders involved in dairy farming. ■

A Rotary club sends 650 rakhis to soldiers

Team Rotary News

RC Nagpur Horizon, RID 3030, sponsored 650 *rakhis* as part of a larger consignment of 4,000 *rakhis* being sent to Indian Army personnel deployed along the country's borders ahead of Raksha Bandhan.

The *rakhis* were made by Sweekar Association, an organisation which represents parents of persons with special needs and disabilities. Rajesh Ballal, charter president of the club, and his son Chaitanya Ballal, a member of the association, handed them over to Flight Lieutenant (retd) Shivalee Deshpande of Prahar Defence Preparatory Academy, Nagpur, for dispatch to soldiers through the Army Postal Service Office, Kamptee.

Club members and four others contributed towards the cost of the 650 *rakhis*. ■



Rajesh Ballal, charter president of RC Nagpur Horizon, and his son Chaitanya Ballal receiving the *rakhis* from a representative of Sweekar Association.



Club members with a beneficiary.

Umbrellas for street vendors in Ghaziabad

RC Ghaziabad Vasundhara, RID 3012, distributed large umbrellas to street vendors, including fruit, vegetable, coconut and flower sellers, to protect them from the sun and rain. The project boosted the public image of Rotary in the neighbourhoods as Rotarians participated with enthusiasm.

Led by club president Ajay Jain, Rotarians visited various locations across the city to distribute the umbrellas and support vendors who work outdoors to earn their livelihood. ■

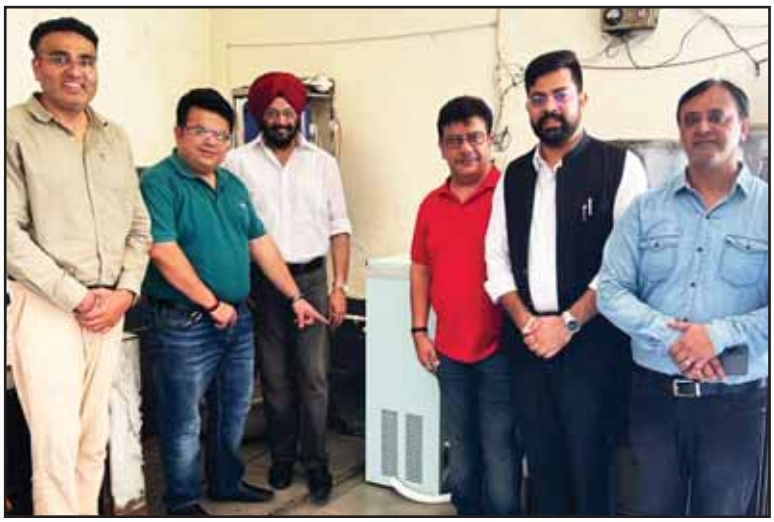
A water cooler installed at govt school

Team Rotary News

A water cooler, along with an RO unit, was set up at the Government Elementary School, Islamabad, by RC Amritsar West, RID 3070, in partnership with their Rotaractors.

The drinking water system will provide access to safe, clean and purified drinking water to more than 400 students and 20 staff, thereby ensuring their health with this sanitation facility. "All our club members contributed to the project cost of `26,000, and the water cooler unit will provide better access to WASH facilities in the school, and enabling a conducive learning environment," said Sawan Arora, club president.

Project chair Sachin Arora coordinated with club members, RAC Amritsar West president Arjun Sehgal and other stakeholders for the completion of the water kiosk installation. "Through the installation of the water cooler system, we have once again proved our resolve to create a sustainable and meaningful impact in the communities, this time for students in a primary school," said Arora. ■



RC Amritsar West president Sawan Arora (2nd from L) with members at the installation of water cooler unit at a government primary school.

A Miyawaki forest in Kumbakonam, TN

As part of its environmental initiatives, RC Kumbakonam, RID 2981, has done a site cleanup for creating a Miyawaki forest over 65,000 sqft of land owned by the municipal corporation.

RID 2981 environmental projects chair Sowmya Narayanan and AG Bhooma Narayanan were present at the clean-up work, along with municipality officials and revenue inspectors. The Miyawaki forest project was aimed to transform this municipal land into a green hub, thereby contributing to environmental conservation, increasing the green cover, improving air quality, and promoting ecological sustainability.

The club has taken up a number of sustainable environmental projects in collaboration with the Kumbakonam Municipal Corporation for creating a greener and healthier environment for the community. ■



RC Kumbakonam members at the launch of site clean-up activity, along with municipal corporation officials.

Rotary eye check-up camps for students

Team Rotary News



Eyesight being checked for children at one of the camps.

The Rotary Club of Tapi Surat, RID 3060, in collaboration with the Swami Vivekanand Netra Mandir (SVNM), conducted eye-screening programmes for schoolchildren in Surat.

The initiative covered 150 government and private schools, screening over 39,000 students for vision problems, including refractive errors. More than 1,800 students were referred to hospitals for further evaluation, while around 2,670 children received spectacles free of cost.

The project aims to detect vision problems early and ensure timely treatment, helping children see clearly and participate more effectively in school. ■

Developing public speaking skills in children



Participants at the elocution competition
with members of Rotary E-club Solapur Elite.

Sixty students participated in an inter-school Marathi elocution competition organised by the Rotary E-club of Solapur Elite, RID 3132.

Students delivered inspiring speeches on socially relevant topics such as plastic-free environment, importance of education and reading habit, water conservation, cleanliness and health. The programme aimed to promote confidence and public speaking skills in children.■

club matters



RC Tankcity Thiruvarur



RC Sardarshahr



RC Pudukkottai City



RC Varanasi Central

RC Tankcity Thiruvarur — RID 2981

An anti-drugs awareness rally was conducted with students from Sri Venkateswara Matric High School at Katchanam village in Thiruvarur district. Aalivam sub-inspector Madhavi took part in the rally.

RI District 3011



RC Sardarshahr — RID 3053

C-Arm machine, a mobile medical imaging device, worth `10 lakh was donated to the Government Sub District Hospital for bone surgeries. Local MLA Anil Sharma inaugurated the medical equipment. Four mega projects (`51 lakh) will be done at the hospital.

RC Pudukkottai City — RID 3000

IPDG J Karthik presented the charter citation of a new club, RC Annavasal Annaparavai, at their maiden installation. Charter president Chinnathurai took oath of office. Karpaga Vinayaka Medical College director Dr Raghupathi spoke.

RI District 3011

RIDE Gurjeet Singh Sekhon was the chief guest at a Club Leadership Learning Seminar. The workshop saw over 970 delegates. Delhi CM Rekha Gupta gave a special address.

RC Varanasi Central — RID 3120

RIDE Basudev Golyan installed the new office-bearers of the Interact Club of Seth M R Jaipuria Schools Banaras-Babatpur Campus. Sanket Agrawal was inducted as the new Interact club president. Golyan spoke on the potential of Interactors to contribute towards global peace.

RC Thane



RC Tirupattur



RC Kota City



RC Nanganallur Elite



RC Thane — RID 3142

Ann Rhucha Vartak conducted a workshop titled 'Safety over surprises' for Rotarians. She spoke on the need to have a structured disaster recovery and business continuity plan for organisations. She touched on issues related to a contingency plan for information assets, and digitising the records.



RC Erode Nexus

RC Tirupattur — RID 3231

New clothes were distributed to 250 students at the Government Primary Schools in Natrampalli and TNHB Phase-II, Tirupattur. Around 150 students donated blood at a blood collection drive held at the Podhigai Engineering College, Tirupattur.

RC Nanganallur Elite — RID 3234

An orphaned girl child was adopted by the club which will support her complete educational journey from LKG to higher studies. Apart from long-term educational assistance, mentorship with holistic support will enable the child to build a successful career.

RC Kota City — RID 3182

Sewing machines worth `55,000 were donated to women on the eve of 80th Independence Day for the beneficiaries to earn a regular income for their families, and ensure their livelihood. The project lifted the public image of the club in the locality.

RC Erode Nexus — RID 3203

Cancer survivors recalled their real life stories of grit and resilience at a special event, *Meendu Varuvom* (we will overcome) in a joint programme with Onco Foundation, IMA-local chapter and Erode Parenting Hub. The event saw 150 patients, caregivers and survivors.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran

Creating thalassaemia awareness in Pune

Team Rotary News

In a joint initiative, RC Poona Downtown, RID 3131, along with RCs Pune Central and Poona, conducted a thalassaemia awareness event at St Mira's College for Girls to educate the students on the blood disorder, and the need to screen themselves before marriage and starting a family. The Thalassaemia Society Pune Chapter (TSPC) was the co-partner.

Dr Nita Munshi, founder-president, TSPC, in her address, said "thalassaemia is not just a medical problem, but a genetic condition with profound consequences for children, parents and the entire families." An inherited blood disorder in which the body is unable to produce adequate quantity of healthy haemoglobin counts, thalassaemia affects children requiring blood transfusion and medical care through their lives.

Apart from regular blood transfusions, iron-chelation therapy and, in some cases, bone marrow transplantation are also done for effective treatment. "In most cases, the birth of a child with severe thalassaemia can be prevented through awareness, carrier screening, genetic counselling, and informed reproductive choices," said Dr Nita. Making a strong appeal to students, she said, "every young person must know their thalassaemia status before marriage, and definitely before planning a family."

One of the important takeaways from the event was that a person carrying the thalassemia gene may be completely unaware of it. A person with this disease trait may appear healthy and lead a completely normal life, which is why the condition can pass silently from one generation to the next. When both parents carry a thalassaemia trait, there is a significant risk that their child may inherit a severe form of the disease. This makes identifying carriers before marriage and providing genetic counselling extremely important.

According to recent estimates, around 10,000–15,000 children with thalassaemia major, a severe form of the blood disease, are born every year in India, "thus making prevention and carrier screening a public health priority," said Dr Nita. Across the country, there are currently between 1 to 1.5 lakh children living with thalassemia major. TSPC creates awareness on the importance of regular transfusions, chelation therapy and specialist medical care for affected individuals. Its major activities included educating young adults, screening them through blood tests, and providing counselling to those identified as having thalassemia trait. TSPC has screened more than 8,000 individuals in the year ending March 2026; and is actively taking awareness programmes to colleges, educational institutions and workplaces.



A college student being screened for thalassaemia.



Dr Nita Munshi addressing students of St Mira's College for Girls, Pune.

The collaboration between the three Rotary clubs and the TSPC has demonstrated the role that service organisations can play in creating public health awareness. "India cannot hope to reduce the number of children born with thalassemia major unless young people understand the condition and take responsibility for knowing their carrier status. Pune too has an opportunity to lead by example," said Shikha Mitra, president, RC Poona Downtown. ■





Dental and eye screening being done for students and staff in a school.

Eye and dental checkup for Karur students

Team Rotary News

Around 120 students of the Balar Kalikoodam School in a village in Karur, Tamil Nadu, benefitted from an eye and dental check-up camp organised by the Rotary Club of Karur, RID 3000.

Dr T M Sathish Kumar from the Sathish Eye Care Hospital and Dr S Karpagam from the White Tooth Dental Clinic in the city offered their services for the screening.

The programme aimed to create awareness among students about the importance of eye and dental health, and the need to develop healthy habits from an early age.

In another initiative, the club organised an anti-drugs rally which had a participation of 1,400 students, along with the club members. The highlight of the event was the human formation of the words — Say No to Drugs, after which they took a pledge to not consume drugs and stand up against the vice.

The club presented a hearing aid to a 60-year-old man who earns his livelihood by selling tea in the local bazaar and market areas of Karur. ■



Human formation of 'Say No to Drugs' organised by RC Karur.



Club members with participants at the workshop.

Workshop on gardening

Team Rotary News

RC Nasik, RID 3030, led by its president Shilpa Parakh, organised a workshop on terrace and backyard gardening alongside the weekly farmers' market. Around 60 people participated.

In the workshop, club member Hemraj Rajput, a specialist in horticulture, provided detailed guidance on backyard and terrace garden design, preparation of pots and trays, soil and fertiliser management, cultivation of vegetables and flowers, water management, and pest and disease management. He explained about the technologies and methods useful for terrace gardening.



Students attending a session at a RYLA organised by RC Nasik.

Club member Rafiq Vohra guided the participants on composting and decomposition of organic waste and informed about the proper use of organic waste at home to produce organic fertilisers.

The club hosted a RYLA at the Fravashi International School in Nashik; 400 students from four schools participated in the leadership skills development event. These students, coming from less privileged families, were given exposure to various facets of leadership and different skills that would help them in future, said club member Vinayak Deodhar.

The club has a long tradition of hosting RYLAs, and it plans to host a total six such events during this Rotary year. "We have planned to organise the event every alternate month, and a big three-day programme in February 2027," he said. Teachers accompanying students expressed great satisfaction about the different life skills and concepts the students were exposed to during this RYLA. ■

A blood donation camp in Bareilly

Team Rotary News



RC Baans Bareilly, RID 3110, in collaboration with 12 Rotary clubs from Bareilly, organised a blood donation camp at the IMA Blood Bank. Volunteer blood donors participated in the camp, and 200 units of blood was collected. Members of RC Bans Bareilly donated 15 units of blood during this camp. ■

Rotarians trek Tapovan, Uttarakhand

Four members of RC Gorakhpur Mid Town, RID 3120, completed the trek to Tapovan, Uttarakhand, at an altitude of about 14,500 feet above sea level. Rtns Rajkumar Bathwal, Ashutosh Agarwal, Indar Karwani and Awadh Raj Bathwal jointly hoisted the national flag and the Rotary flag.

"Hoisting the tricolour and the Rotary flag with pride, and singing the national anthem amidst the vast and beautiful Himalayan ranges was an extremely unforgettable, inspiring and emotional experience for all of us," says Rajkumar Bathwal. ■



Rotarians holding the Rotary flag after completing the trek.